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ASTRAGALUS RACEMOSUS* VAR *LONGISETUS **RACEME MILKVETCH**

Raceme Milkvetch is a perennial with few to many erect stems, 15-70 cm high, and arising from a woody taproot and branched rootcrown. The pinnately compound leaves are 4-15 cm long with 11-31 narrowly to broadly elliptic leaflets. Foliage is thinly to densely covered with short hairs. Inflorescences with 15-70 densely clustered flowers arise from the axils of the upper leaves. The nodding, whitish flowers are 16-21 mm long with a partially reflexed upper petal and purplish tinged lower petals. The calyx is 8-11 mm long and glabrous or with scattered hairs. The pendant, oblong-elliptic pods have a basal, 3-7 mm long stalk, are glabrous, triangular in cross-section, with 3 sides that are nearly flat and equal-width, and 15-30 mm long. Flowering in late June-early July, fruits persisting.

The combination of coarse, erect stems, short pubescence, and pendant pods that are triangular in cross-section, is diagnostic of this species in our area. The more common *ASTRAGALUS BISULCATUS* is similar but has pods dorsiventrally compressed with 2 parallel grooves on the bottom, and has foliage with long spreading hairs. Note: A *RACEMOSUS* VAR *RACEMOSUS* is also verified from one Montana station, having a shorter calyx 7.3-9 mm long, shorter calyx teeth 1-3.5 mm long, and narrower leaves that are linear to elliptic. Intermediates are collected and reported; taxonomic consultation and specimen review are underway on both putative varieties that are rare.